




Maricopa County

Internal Audit Department

301 West Jefferson St
Suite 660
Phx, AZ 85003-2148
Phone: 602-506-1585
Fax: 602-506-8957
www.maricopa.gov

To: Max W. Wilson, Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Fulton Brock, Supervisor, District I
Don Stapley, Supervisor, District II
Andrew Kunasek, Supervisor, District III
Mary Rose Wilcox, Supervisor, District V

From: Ross Tate, County Auditor 

Subject: FY 2012 Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Data Center Review

Date: March 15, 2012

We have completed our review of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) data center which was originally scheduled as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Countywide Data Center Review. Our objective was to determine if MCSO data center controls provide reasonable assurance that access to computer resources (data, equipment, and facilities) is appropriate and restricted to authorized individuals. We used site tours, interviews, and data testing to achieve this objective.

As in the FY 2009 Countywide Data Center Review report, we reviewed 81 MCSO data center controls in six categories:

- Physical Security
- Environmental Controls
- Backup and Restoration
- Equipment Protection
- Data Center Operations
- Disaster Recovery Planning

MCSO compared favorably to the previously reported countywide results; 82% of the MCSO data center controls tested complied with recommended standards, compared to 73% countywide. We found no weaknesses related to equipment protection; however, improvements could be made to physical security, environmental controls, backup and restoration, data center operations, and disaster recovery planning. Strengthening controls in these areas could reduce the risk to employee safety, business operations, and IT equipment, software or data. MCSO management should take steps to remedy these weaknesses.

Auditing Standards

We conducted this performance audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. These standards require the following:

- An independent audit staff and audit organization
- An objective audit staff performing the work
- A competent staff, current with continuing education requirements
- A system of quality control procedures
- Sufficient and appropriate evidence based on audit objectives

Due to the sensitive nature of this work, we provided MCSO management with detailed findings and recommendations in a separate report. We reviewed this report with MCSO management and appreciate the excellent cooperation by their staff. MCSO concurred with the recommendations. If you have any questions, please contact Eve Murillo, Deputy County Auditor, at 506-7245, or me, at 506-1588.

C: Joseph Arpaio, Maricopa County Sheriff
Jerry Sheridan, MCSO Chief Deputy
Scott Freeman, MCSO Chief of Administration
Shelly Bunn, MCSO Deputy Director, Technology Management